



United States  
of America

# Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 108<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 149

WASHINGTON, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2003

No. 122

## House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 9, 2003, at 12:30 p.m.

## Senate

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2003

The Senate met at 1 p.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS).

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Harry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

O Maker of sea, land and air, speak to our hearts that we may cling to the things that cannot fail. Thank You for the gift of a new day, for borrowed breath and heartbeats. Be our pilot over life's tempestuous seas, and help us to strive more for faithfulness than success.

Be with our Senators today. Use them to speed the day when people need not live in fear of one another. Empower them to give and not to count the cost; to fight and not to heed the wounds; to toil and not to seek for rest; to labor and not to ask for anything, except the knowledge that they are doing Your will.

We pray in Your Holy Name, Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable HARRY REID led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The acting majority leader is recognized.

### SCHEDULE

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, today the Senate will resume consideration of H.R. 2660, the Labor, HHS, and Education appropriations bill. The chairman and ranking member will be here this afternoon throughout the consideration of the bill. It had been the hope of the leader to schedule votes this evening on amendments to the Labor-HHS bill. However, it is our understanding there will be an objection from the other side of the aisle for any unanimous consent request that sets a vote for today. That objection extends to setting votes on executive nominations as well. Therefore, on behalf of the leader, I announce that no rollcall votes will occur during today's session. We will continue to work throughout today to resolve the remaining issues on the Labor-HHS appropriations bill, and we hope additional progress can be made on the bill.

### RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The assistant minority leader.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, my friend from Wyoming is absolutely correct. We will not agree to setting aside any amendments. As I announced last week, we on this side want to move this bill. Last Tuesday, when we started after the August break, we said we would like to have a day where we could have a vote on overtime. We said last Tuesday we thought the best time would be Tuesday, a week from that day. We spoke to the majority leader.

Of course, we spoke to Senator SPECTER on many occasions about that. We do not want anyone to think we are scheduling the Senate's business around four Democratic Senators who are running for President. Since the Presidential process started, we never asked any special favors. We thought we were doing everyone a favor here by telling—in fact, telegraphing them—when we thought that vote should take place.

It is possible there can be an effort made to table the Harkin amendment on overtime. This is an important piece of legislation. This one appropriations bill is, I think, about \$30-odd billion. It deals with issues of extreme importance.

We want to move this legislation. But also for the men and women of this country, we feel it is so important to have an up-or-down vote on overtime. The President has made a decision that he wants to change the way overtime is paid to the men and women in this country. It is only the American way that we would simply have a vote as to whether or not the President is right.

We believe people of good will will vote with us. It is clear the reason we have suddenly not been able to have a vote is because the majority leader recognizes they will lose and we will win, but that shouldn't be a cause to bring down a whole bill. But in fairness, we believe we should have a vote on this issue.

I am only speaking for myself. It is hard for me personally to comprehend. These bills go to conference. There will be a conference with the House. Of course, if we don't like what comes out

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



Printed on recycled paper.

S11173